



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,287	10/29/2003	Andrew L. Pearlman	701030-16	5135

7590 10/31/2005

William Squire
Carella, Byrne, Bain, Gilfillan,
Cecchi, Stewart & Olstein
5 Becker Farm Road
Roseland, NJ 07068

EXAMINER

MANUEL, GEORGE C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3762

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/696,287	PEARLMAN, ANDREW L.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	George Manuel	3762	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 34-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 34-61 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/29/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 34-61 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 21, 101, 104 and 132 of U.S. Patent No. 5,810,742. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both sets of claims are claiming obvious variations of providing an electrical stimulation to a patient, sensing electrical signals from a multi-element probe, and determining a value of an impedance measure or a polychromatic measure based on sensed electrical signals.

Claims 34-50 and 52-61 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-56 of U.S. Patent No. 6,308,097. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both sets of claims are claiming obvious

variations of providing an electrical stimulation to a patient, sensing electrical signals from a multi-element probe, and determining a value of an impedance measure based on sensed electrical signals.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 34-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito et al '217 in view of Longini et al '543.

Ito et al disclose an impedance pneumograph 10 using a pair of electrodes fitted to the breast of a living body. The pneumograph 10 shown in Fig. 1A is designed to detect that impedance of a patient between a pair of electrodes fitted to the patient's breast which varies with the respiration of the patient and to generate an electrical signal denoting this variation in impedance.

Longini et al teach using a guard electrode 20 which may be segmented or provided as discrete but electrically interconnected electrodes 21.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to use the teaching of Longini et al to provide a plurality of elements of a multi-element probe for the

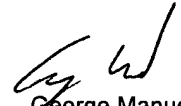
Art Unit: 3762

pneumograph 10 in the Ito et al device because Longini et al suggest this arrangement to eliminate substantial inclusion of much lower thoracic wall impedance spurious signals by using the guard electrode arrangement. Fig. 4A shows the output signal from impedance pneumograph 10. The examiner is interpreting selecting a sub-group of elements to comprise selecting electrodes 22 and 24 of the Longini et al impedance apparatus.

Ito et al teaches the impedance pneumograph 10 is designed to detect that impedance of a patient between a pair of electrodes fitted to the patient's breast varies with the perspiration of the patient and to generate an electrical signal denoting the variation in impedance. One of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to map a region and generate a pixel impedance map comprising contrasting polychromatic pixels because it is well known the impedance of tissue varies with location and chromatic pixels permit segmentation to identify specific impedance locations.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Manuel whose telephone number is (571) 272-4952.



George Manuel
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3762

10/27/05